

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ERDA-05 CIAE-00 H-02 INR-07

IO-10 L-03 NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-04 PRS-01

SAJ-01 SAM-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 DODE-00

NSC-05 /089 W

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R 211217Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5399

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION NATO

USDEL MBFR VIENNA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 30401

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: EEC, PFOR, NATO, MBFR, FR

SUBJECT: EC POLITICAL CONSULTATION: MBFR

REF: PARIS 28733

1. SUMMARY: FRENCH ARE NOT ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT CONTINUED VIGOR SHOWN BY MBFR AS EC DISCUSSION ITEM' BUT ARE PREPARED TO RIDE ALONG PARALLEL TO, BUT SEPARATE FROM, THE EC HERD AS IT PUSHES MORE DEEPLY INTO MBFR. END SUMMARY.

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2. DUFOURCQ (QUAI DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR WESTERN EUROPE)

HAS GIVEN US REPORT ON MBFR DISCUSSION DURING EC POLITICAL DIRECTORS MEETING IN ROME NOVEMBER 13-14, WHICH HE ATTENDED. HE CONFIRMED REPORTS FROM OTHER POSTS THAT GERMANS HAD PRESSED FOR AMBITIOUS PROGRAM OF FUTURE EC DISCUSSION OF MBFR, AND THAT THEY RECEIVED SOME DEGREE OF SUPPORT, AT LEAST FROM BELGIANS AND ITALIANS. FRENCH FOUND THEMSELVES AMONG FOOT-DRAGGERS AND ENDED UP ATTACHING ALL SORTS OF CAVEATS TO THEIR PARTICIPATION IN WHAT DUFOURCQ DESCRIBED AS "EXAMINATION OF RELATIONSHIP OF CERTAIN NEGOTIATIONS (E.G., MBFR) TO THE CONSTRUCTION OF EUROPE AND TO SOVIET CONCEPT OF MILITARY DETENTE." FRENCH DEMANDED THAT THERE BE NO ATTEMPT TO USE THE EXAMINATION AS MECHANISM TO FIX POSITIONS THAT EC MEMBERS SHOULD TAKE ON MBFR NEGOTIATING OR SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES. AS IF TO UNDERLINE TOTAL LACK OF FRENCH ENTHUSIASM FOR EXPANDING SCOPE OF EC EXAMINATION OF MBFR, FRENCH POLITICAL DIRECTOR DE LABOULAYE WILL NOT BRING ALONG HIS MBFR EXPERT FOR FUTURE SESSIONS. MOREOVER' FRENCH DO NOT AGREE THAT THIS EXERCISE SHOULD EXTEND TO PAPER WRITING. FRENCH ARE PREPARED (ALTHOUGH RELUCTANTLY) TO PARTICIPATE IN ORAL EXCHANGES, BUT FEAR THAT FORMAL PIECES OF PAPER MAY BE USED BY OTHERS TO ENGAGE FRANCE IN MBFR NEGOTIATING PROCESS.

3. COMMENT: ANCIENS COMBATTANTS OF THE MBFR CIRCUIT MAY BE AMUSED BY THIS DISPLAY OF FRANTIC BACK PEDALLING BY FRENCH IN EC-NINE AS THEY ATTEMPT TO REMAIN SEPARATED FROM MBFR NEGOTIATIONS. IN THE PAST, THE FRENCH HAVE BEEN PREPARED TO MAKE KNOWN THEIR RESERVATIONS REGARDING SUBSTANCE OF MBFR, BOTH BILATERALLY AND MULTILATERALLY IN THE EC AND NATO. NOW THAT GERMANS SEEM TO BE ADOPTING AN INCREASINGLY SKEPTICAL VIEW OF MBFR, HOWEVER, FRENCH WOULD BE SATISFIED TO SEE THE SUBJECT DISAPPEAR FROM EC AGENDA. MOREOVER, IN EFFORTS BY FRG AND OTHERS TO KEEP MBFR DISCUSSION ALIVE IN EC POLITICAL CONSULTATION FORUM, FRENCH PERCEIVE ATTEMPT TO BACK THEM INTO SOME FORM OF INDIRECT PARTICIPATION IN MBFR (AS DESCRIBED IN SOME DETAIL IN REFTEL). THIS ACCOUNTS FOR FRENCH OBSTRUCTIONISM IN CURRENT ROUND OF EC DISCUSSION OF MBFR. IN ANY EVENT, IT SEEMS CLEAR FROM REPORTING BY SEVERAL POSTS

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THAT REAL PUSH FOR FURTHER EC CONSIDERATION OF MBFR COMES FROM BONN, NOT PARIS. ALL EVIDENCE HERE SUGGESTS THAT THIS WILL CONTINUE TO BE THE CASE.

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